

a supply of fluid located within said smoke producing chamber to be vaporized when heated;

a heating element located within said smoke producing chamber above said supply of fluid;

a gas inlet communicating with said smoke producing chamber to receive non-combustible nitrogen gas under pressure, said gas inlet having an inlet orifice in fluid communication with said supply of fluid so that when said nitrogen gas under pressure is delivered through said gas inlet, some of said supply of fluid is drawn into said gas inlet via said inlet orifice, whereby a mixture of said nitrogen gas and fluid is blown through said gas inlet and against said heating element to be vaporized into smoke when said heating element is heated;

a smoke outlet communicating with said smoke producing chamber to permit said smoke to exit said smoke producing chamber; and

a source of non-combustible nitrogen gas connected to said gas inlet to supply said nitrogen gas under pressure thereto.

3. The apparatus recited in claim 1, wherein said gas inlet is a tube located within said smoke producing chamber, said gas inlet tube running through and extending above said supply of fluid to blow the mixture of nitrogen gas and fluid against said heating element.

19. (Amended) A method for generating smoke, comprising the steps of:

locating a supply of fluid within a closed smoke producing chamber, said smoke producing chamber having a gas inlet to receive a supply of non-combustible nitrogen gas under pressure and a smoke outlet to permit smoke to exit said smoke producing chamber;

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locating a heating element within said smoke producing chamber so as to extend in spaced alignment with said supply of fluid;

supplying said nitrogen gas under pressure to said smoke producing chamber via said gas inlet for blowing a mixture of said nitrogen gas and said supply of fluid against said heating element;

energizing said heating element for vaporizing into smoke said mixture of nitrogen gas and fluid that is blown against said heating element; and

removing said smoke from said smoke producing chamber via said smoke outlet.

B3 21. (Amended) The method recited in Claim 19, wherein said gas inlet includes a tube that runs through and extends above said supply of fluid within said smoke producing chamber, said gas inlet tube having an inlet orifice located within said supply of fluid so that when said non-combustible nitrogen gas under pressure is delivered through said gas inlet tube, some of said supply of fluid is drawn into said gas inlet tube via said inlet orifice thereof to create said mixture to be blown against and vaporized by said heating element.

B4 24. (Amended) The method recited in Claim 19, including the additional steps of monitoring the pressure of said non-combustible nitrogen gas being supplied under pressure to said smoke producing chamber via said gas inlet, energizing said heating element when the pressure of the nitrogen gas in said gas inlet is above a predetermined pressure, and de-energizing said heating element when the pressure of the nitrogen gas in said gas inlet is below said predetermined pressure.